

**AMENDMENT AND PRESENTATION OF CLAIMS**

Please replace all prior claims in the present application with the following claims, in which claims 17-18 are newly presented.

1. (Original) A method for servicing requests received by a server in a multiple-user environment, the method comprising the steps of:

establishing a first session between said server and a first user;

establishing a second session between said server and a second user;

responding to requests that are received by said server in said first session by executing

virtual machine code using a first virtual machine instance; and

responding to requests that are received by said server in said second session by executing

virtual machine code using a second virtual machine instance;

wherein said first virtual machine instance and said second virtual machine instance are

distinct instances of a same type of virtual machine;

wherein said first virtual machine instance exists within said server concurrently with said

second virtual machine instance; and

wherein said first virtual machine instance and said second virtual machine instance are two

of a plurality of virtual machine instances, associated with said server, that share access to

data stored in a shared state area allocated in volatile memory associated with said server.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of sharing, between said first virtual machine instance and said second virtual machine instance, a set of one or more resources within said shared state area.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein the step of sharing a set of one or more resources includes sharing data associated with an object class.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said plurality of virtual machine instances share read-only access to said data stored in said shared state area allocated in volatile memory within said server.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein:

    said shared state area stores data associated with an object class; and

    said first virtual machine instance stores, in session-specific memory associated with said first virtual machine instance, a first value for a static variable associated with said object class; and

    said second virtual machine instance stores, in session-specific memory associated with said second virtual machine instance, a second value for said static variable associated with said object class.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

    responding to a call associated with a particular session with said server by allocating a call memory for the particular virtual machine instance associated with said particular session; and

    discarding said call memory upon termination of said call.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of: responding to a call associated with a particular session with said server by scheduling, for execution in a system thread, the particular virtual machine instance associated with said particular session.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of: spawning the first virtual machine instance by instantiating a data structure associated with a single session; and storing a pointer within said data structure to provide access to the data stored in the shared state area.

9. (Original) A computer-readable medium carrying instructions for servicing requests received by a server in a multiple-user environment, the instruction comprising instructions for performing the steps of:

establishing a first session between said server and a first user;  
establishing a second session between said server and a second user;  
responding to requests that are received by said server in said first session by executing virtual machine code using a first virtual machine instance; and  
responding to requests that are received by said server in said second session by executing virtual machine code using a second virtual machine instance;  
wherein said first virtual machine instance and said second virtual machine instance are distinct instances of a same type of virtual machine;  
wherein said first virtual machine instance exists within said server concurrently with said second virtual machine instance; and

wherein said first virtual machine instance and said second virtual machine instance are two of a plurality of virtual machine instances, associated with said server, that share access to data stored in a shared state area allocated in volatile memory associated with said server.

10. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 9 further comprising instructions for performing the step of sharing, between said first virtual machine instance and said second virtual machine instance, a set of one or more resources within said shared state area.

11. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 10 wherein the step of sharing a set of one or more resources includes sharing data associated with an object class.

12. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 9 wherein said plurality of virtual machine instances share read-only access to said data stored in said shared state area allocated in volatile memory within said server.

13. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 9 wherein:

    said shared state area stores data associated with an object class; and

    said first virtual machine instance stores, in session-specific memory associated with said first virtual machine instance, a first value for a static variable associated with said object class; and

    said second virtual machine instance stores, in session-specific memory associated with said second virtual machine instance, a second value for said static variable associated with said object class.

14. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 9 further comprising instructions for performing the steps of:

responding to a call associated with a particular session with said server by allocating a call memory for the particular virtual machine instance associated with said particular session;  
and  
discarding said call memory upon termination of said call.

15. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 9 further comprising instructions for performing the step of:

responding to a call associated with a particular session with said server by scheduling, for execution in a system thread, the particular virtual machine instance associated with said particular session.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 9 further comprising instructions for performing the steps of:

spawning the first virtual machine instance by instantiating a data structure associated with a single session; and  
storing a pointer within said data structure to provide access to the data stored in the shared state area.

17. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein:

establishing the first session between said server and the first user includes establishing a first database session between a database system and the first user; and

establishing the second session between said server and the second user establishing a second database session between the database system and the first user.

18. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein:

establishing the first session between said server and the first user includes establishing a first database session between a database system and the first user; and

establishing the second session between said server and the second user establishing a second database session between the database system and the first user.